

THE STORY OF THE SHAFT.

A Narrative Which Covers Over a Century of Time.

HOW CONGRESS RESOLVED TO ERECT A MONUMENT, BUT FAILED TO DO SO—THE WORK TAKEN UP BY THE MONUMENT SOCIETY AND FINALLY ASSUMED BY CONGRESS.

The dedication to-day of the loftiest structure in the world to the memory of the man who occupies the highest pedestal in the American Pantheon makes a big punctuation mark in history. The story of the monument, however, is only on account of the evidence it gives that the steady patriotism which inspired the founders of the republic still lives, but also because it signifies the completion of an edifice which will hereafter be known as the Pyramid of the Republic, with its shaft and the leaning tower of Pisa, among the architectural wonders of the world. There is report of only one structure erected by human hands that could stand the test of the Washington monument without appearing belittled, and that was the Tower of Babel. Today's ceremonies marked the completion of a patriotic project conceived over a century ago.

THE FIRST RESOLUTION.

On the 7th of March, 1783, the Continental Congress resolved unanimously that an equestrian statue of Washington be erected at the place where the residence of Congress shall be established. This was the first public step taken toward erecting a fitting memorial to the nation's first president. The monument was to be erected in the city of Washington, and from that time until 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 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